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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

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CONTENTS

NUMBER 3

	PAGE
COTTON	
U. S. Cotton Exports Up in November	23
El Salvador's Cotton Production Increases	23
Syria's 1958-59 Cotton Crop May Set New Record	24
Transshipments of Mexican Cotton Up in September	26
DAIRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS	
U. K. Lifts Restrictions on Butter Imports	11
U. S. Exports of Poultry Meat Continue To Gain	12
FATS, OILSEEDS, AND OILS	
Argentina's 1958-59 Flaxseed Crop Down	13
Philippine 1958 Exports of Copra and Coconut Oil Off One-fifth From 1957	26
FOREIGN TRADE DEVELOPMENTS	
Import Controls Relaxed in Trinidad and Tobago	10
West Germany Announces Import Tenders for Certain Meals and Oil Residues	19
Partial Convertibility of European Currencies Will Stimulate Trade	20
Colombia To Promote Barter Transactions	22
Dry Weather in New Zealand	26
French Liberalization of Dollar Imports	28
FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND NUTS	
Chilean Onion Acreage Larger	4
Italy Sets Export Controls on Apples	5
Larger Chilean Prune Crop Expected	5
Israeli Citrus Escapes Drought Damage	6
Tasmania To Export Less Fruit To Europe	6
Peru Again Boosts Import Charges on Fruits and Vegetables	6
Ireland To Lift Apple Import Restrictions	7
France Liberalizes Seed Potato Imports	7
Higher Prices for 1958 Yugoslav Prune Pack	25

(Continued on following page)

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CONTENTS (continued)

	<u>Page</u>
GRAINS, FEEDS, SEEDS, AND HOPS	
El Salvador's Rice Crop Below Requirements.....	13
Union of South Africa's 1958 Wheat Crop Smaller.....	13
Rice Crop Prospects Improve in Northern Australia.....	14
U. S. Rice Exports Down in November.....	14
Colombian Group Plans To Expand Barley Production.....	16
Hong Kong's Rice Imports Increase.....	16
Japan Plans Reduction in Wheat and Barley Support Prices.....	18
Drought Threatens Peru's 1959 Food Supply.....	19
New Zealand Relaxes Import Licensing of Certain Seeds.....	19
LIVESTOCK AND MEAT PRODUCTS	
U. S. Imports of Canadian Cattle Slacken.....	7
More New Zealand Chilled Beef Coming to U. S.....	7
West Germany To Import Beef Livers.....	8
Australian Meat Production Up.....	8
U. S. Meat Imports Continue High.....	8
Danish Canned Meat Exports To U. S. May Decline.....	10
West Germany Using Less Tallow.....	10
New Zealand Wool Market Bolstered by U. S. Buying.....	11
U. S. Mohair Exports At New High in 1958.....	13
SUGAR AND TROPICAL PRODUCTS	
Albania's Sugar Output Reported.....	14
Panama Establishes 1958-59 Coffee Crop Price.....	22
TOBACCO	
Smaller Turkish Tobacco Crop in 1958.....	3
India's Flue-Cured Exports Rise in 1958.....	3
Belgian Manufacturers Seek Cigarette Price Increase.....	4
Spanish Tobacco Production Lower in 1958.....	4

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NEW PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO U. S. FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL TRADE

Available (single copies) free to persons in the U. S. from the Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., Room 5922. Phone: REpublic 7-4142, Ext. 2445.

Thailand's Economy Stable in 1958 Despite Unfavorable Developments. Foreign Agriculture Circular FATP 1-59.

World Trade in Poultry and Eggs, 1956, 1957, and Indicated 1958. Foreign Agriculture Circular FPE 1-59.

World Potato Production Down. Foreign Agriculture Circular FFV 5-58.

World Raisin Supplies Down. Foreign Agriculture Circular FDF 6-58.

Foreign Agriculture magazine. January 1959.

SMALLER TURKISH TOBACCO CROP IN 1958

Turkey's 1958 tobacco crop is now estimated at 233.7 million pounds, about 12 percent smaller than the 1957 crop. Dry weather in the Aegean region accounted for most of the decline. Although the yield was reduced, the crop is of good quality and growers expect more American-grade leaf than in 1957.

In experiments to find ways of improving the quality of Turkish tobacco, the Ministry of Agriculture is emphasizing proper use of irrigation and fertilization.

INDIA'S FLUE-CURED EXPORTS RISE IN 1958

India exported 51.9 million pounds of flue-cured tobacco in the first 6 months of 1958 at an average price equivalent to 41.4 U. S. cents. Flue-cured exports were 29 percent larger by volume than in January-June 1957, and the average export value per pound rose about 20 percent.

The United Kingdom continued to be the major market in January-June 1958, taking about 33 million pounds at an average price equivalent to 57 U. S. cents per pound. Communist China purchased 8 million pounds of low-quality leaf. Other principal markets during this 6-month period were Hong Kong, the Netherlands, Singapore, and Egypt. Average prices ranged from 6.1 cents per pound paid by French West Africa to 66.4 cents per pound by Ireland.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: India, exports of flue-cured, January-June 1958

Country of destination :	Quantity	Average price	Country of destination :	Quantity	Average price
:	:	:	:	:	:
:	1,000	:U.S. cents	:	1,000	:U.S. cents
:	<u>pounds</u>	<u>per lb. 1/</u>	:	<u>pounds</u>	<u>per lb. 1/</u>
:	:	:	:	:	:
United Kingdom	32,970	: 57.1	::Egypt.....	1,382	: 27.3
Netherlands...	1,715	: 13.6	::French West:	:	:
Belgium.....	915	: 13.1	:: Africa...	922	: 6.1
Germany, West:	438	: 11.3	::Ireland.....	675	: 66.4
Hong Kong.....	1,726	: 10.0	::Denmark.....	305	: 63.3
Singapore.....	1,456	: 7.1	::Algeria.....	298	: 15.7
China, :	:	:	::Others.....	1,054	: 13.6
Mainland....	8,017	: 8.9	:: Total.....	51,873	: 41.4

1/ Converted at 1 rupee = 21 U. S. cents.

BELGIAN MANUFACTURERS SEEK CIGARETTE PRICE INCREASE

The Belgian tobacco industry is reported to be disappointed that the Government price Commission has taken no action on proposals to raise cigarette prices. Manufacturers have for some time been squeezed between rising costs of tobacco and fixed retail prices. They have been forced to use as much low-cost leaf as possible, which has limited their purchases of U. S. tobacco.

SPANISH TOBACCO PRODUCTION LOWER IN 1958

Spain produced an estimated 54.3 million pounds of tobacco in 1958, 3.7 million less than the 1957 crop. Increased labor costs have been partly responsible for the decline.

Larger use of flue-cured tobacco in cigarettes has resulted in a small exportable surplus of Spanish dark tobacco. During 1957-58, Spain exported about 8.8 million pounds of stems and scrap tobacco. Approximately the same quantity will be available for export in 1958-59. Exports in 1958-59, however, are expected to consist mainly of dark tobaccos of cigarette quality.

CHILEAN ONION ACREAGE LARGER

Chilean onion acreage for 1958-59 is now reported by the Ministry of Agriculture at 11,400 acres, up 2.2 percent from last year but about equal to 1956-57. Production for 1958-59 has not yet been estimated, but trade sources expect excellent yields and are predicting the largest crop in 3 years.

Exports of onions in 1958 amounted to 14,500 short tons, the lowest in the last 3 years. In 1956 and 1957, exports were 16,200 and 17,700 tons, respectively. Onions are subject to a government-set export quota. No quota has as yet been announced for 1959, but in view of the good production prospects, the trade has requested free exports for the first 6 months of 1959. Major export markets are the United Kingdom, the United States, and Canada.

Onion acreage, production, and yield figures for recent years are as follows (production and yield for 1958-59 are trade estimates):

	<u>1,000 acres</u>	<u>1,000 tons</u>	<u>Tons per acre</u>
1956-57.....	11.1	132.3	11.9
1957-58.....	8.6	112.9	13.1
1958-59.....	11.4	142.0	12.5

ITALY SETS EXPORT CONTROLS ON APPLES

An Italian decree effective December 31, 1958, establishes quality controls on apple exports. Grades are Extra, Prima, Mercantile, and Uso Industriale (industrial use). Required minimum diameter is $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches with some exceptions. Package dimensions and construction are also specified.

LARGER CHILEAN PRUNE CROP EXPECTED

The Chilean trade forecasts 1959 dried prune production at 6,000 short tons, compared with 5,700 tons in 1958 and 5,500 tons in 1957.

The Chilean Prune Producers Association (Asprocica) is expected to handle about two-thirds of the crop, as it has in the past. For the first time in a number of years, there will be no carryover at the end of the crop year (March 31.)

The reduction in export taxes has stimulated interest in the export market. In calendar year 1957, Chile exported 4,261 short tons of dried prunes, a sharp increase over the 2,234 tons exported in 1956. The trade hopes to export 4,400 short tons this year in view of reduced U. S. export availabilities and recent Chilean regulations abolishing taxes on exported products.

Importers in Denmark, the Netherlands, West Germany, and the United Kingdom have reportedly shown interest in the new Chilean crop. Brazil, which used to be a large buyer of Chilean dried prunes, is expected to buy heavily under a new commercial agreement with Chile. Prices for the 1959 crop will probably be higher than in 1958, when prices were in turn higher than in 1957.

Chile's 1956 and 1957 exports of dried prunes, by country of destination, have been as follows (Chilean statistics do not distinguish between East and West Germany):

Country	1956	1957
	Short tons	Short tons
Brazil.....	108	6
Denmark.....	1,011	951
Finland.....	306	---
Germany.....	674	1,626
Italy.....	---	321
Netherlands.....	---	619
Peru.....	77	62
United Kingdom.....	11	653
Other.....	47	24
Total.....	2,234	4,262

ISRAELI CITRUS ESCAPES DROUGHT DAMAGE

Israel's citrus crop has not yet been damaged by the present drought, according to the Ministry of Agriculture. However, the Ministry has warned growers that if the drought continues, it may reduce the level of wells and cause a shortage of irrigation water.

TASMANIA TO EXPORT LESS FRUIT TO EUROPE

The Fruit Shipping Agents' Committee of Tasmania, the major apple-exporting section of Australia, has applied for shipping space for 4,050,000 boxes of apples and 320,000 boxes of pears to the United Kingdom and Continental markets this season. These quantities are below last year's record shipments.

PERU AGAIN BOOSTS IMPORT CHARGES ON FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

The cost of importing fruit and vegetables into Peru has again been increased by the recent application of a 1-percent ad valorem duty and a carriers' surcharge on freight landed at Callao, the major port.

In previous government actions, specific import duties were increased from 50 to 200 percent on all non-essential items (see Foreign Crops and Markets, July 28, 1958). The only major fruit and vegetable item unaffected by these increases was potatoes. All fresh citrus and deciduous fruit, bananas, pineapples, and other tropical fruits were made subject to a specific duty increase of 50 percent. A 200-percent increase in specific duties, levied on all other commodities, affected canned fruits, vegetables, and soups; prunes, dates, and other types of dried fruit; and processed fruit and vegetable preparations of all types (including jams and jellies).

All of these increases were made effective on items under the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade as well as the general schedule of tariffs. As Peru has received a defacto waiver of its obligations under GATT, the actions do not constitute any violation of GATT.

The substantial increases in import costs in recent months have caused some importers to abandon merchandise in customs rather than pay the new rates. Although the rates vary by commodity, charges involved in the cost of importing canned vegetables into Peru are typical. A statistical breakdown shows that customs duties for canned vegetables are equal to 76.77 percent of the f.o.b. value, while brokerage charges are 3.20 percent, and handling and other charges add up to 3.92 percent. Total charges involved in the cost of importing are therefore 83.79 percent of the f.o.b. value.

IRELAND TO LIFT APPLE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

The Irish Department of Agriculture announced that effective March 1 import licenses for apples will be granted. In 1958, import restrictions were not lifted until April 1.

FRANCE LIBERALIZES SEED POTATO IMPORTS

Effective January 1, the French Government liberalized imports of seed potatoes from the United States and Canada.

U. S. IMPORTS OF CANADIAN CATTLE SLACKEN

Although Canadian reports show U. S. imports of Canadian beef cattle during 1958 to be about 94 percent above 1957, the southward movement of cattle across the border slackened in the past 2 months. Canadian inspections of beef cattle for export to the United States during November and December 1958 were about 111,000 head, 18 percent below the 136,000 head inspected for export during the same period in 1957.

Strong prices for slaughter cattle on the Toronto market have caused some movement of fat stock from the United States into Eastern Canada. In December 1958, about 2,000 head of U. S. cattle were imported by Canadian packing plants. Approximately 1,500 head of these cattle were imported during the last week in December. There were no such shipments in December 1957.

During the week ended December 27, 1958, good slaughter steers were selling for the equivalent of U. S. \$27.47 per 100 pounds at Toronto, \$0.21 above the Chicago price and \$6.94 above the comparable Toronto price a year earlier.

MORE NEW ZEALAND CHILLED BEEF COMING TO U. S.

Favorable reception of a shipment of 536 chilled New Zealand beef quarters at San Francisco and Los Angeles last November has encouraged New Zealand exporters to make further shipments.

The meat is reported to have arrived in good condition after its 18 day trip. A second shipment was to leave New Zealand in early January, and a third is planned for March. A meat industry spokesman says that these exports are largely experimental, but others will probably follow.

These are the first sizable shipments of chilled beef from New Zealand to the United States in recent years. Almost all of the large shipments of beef to the United States last year were frozen boneless beef.

WEST GERMANY TO IMPORT BEEF LIVERS

West Germany has increased the scope of its import tender for hog livers and kidneys to include beef livers. The first date for customs clearance was January 2, 1959 (see Foreign Crops and Markets, June 30, 1958).

AUSTRALIAN MEAT PRODUCTION UP

Australian meat production, down sharply during the 1957-58 season, is now running at a high level.

In the important beef-exporting area of Queensland, most packing plants report unusually large slaughter and some report record output. Most of the increase is said to be in production of boneless manufacturing beef and mutton for export to the United States. Due to the sharp foreign demand for boneless mutton, in some markets canner sheep are bringing the same price as the best wethers.

Several Australian meat processors plan to enlarge their boning facilities, and a group of Canadian and U. S. meat companies are reported ready to build a new \$2 $\frac{1}{4}$ million slaughter plant in interior Victoria. The plant would supply North American markets with carcass and boneless meat.

U. S. MEAT IMPORTS CONTINUE HIGH

Imports of red meat into the United States during the first 3 quarters of 1958 were 142 percent above the same period last year. Although fourth-quarter figures are not yet available, the year will undoubtedly be one of record meat imports. Imports during 1959 are expected to continue high.

A 151-percent increase in beef imports was due mostly to a rapid rise in boneless beef imports. Heavy U. S. demand for manufacturing beef and lowered U. S. production of low-grade beef have pushed boneless beef prices to unusually high levels in the United States. Exporters in New Zealand, Mexico, Argentina, Canada, and Ireland have taken advantage of these high prices and increased their shipments sharply. Total U. S. imports of beef during the first 3 quarters of 1958 were probably even larger than indicated, since some beef is included in "Other canned, prepared, or preserved meat". The recent change in the Australian-U.K. longterm meat agreement which allowed Australia to expand exports of low-quality meat to markets outside the United Kingdom is expected to increase Australian boneless beef exports to the United States in 1959 (see Foreign Crops and Markets, November 17, 1958).

Pork imports, which rose 36 percent over 1957, are expected to level off or even drop slightly in 1959. Lamb, mutton, and goat meat imports in 1958 were over 9 times larger than 1957 imports due to strong U. S. demand for manufacturing mutton. They are expected to continue heavy in 1959.

MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS: U. S. imports, product weight,
January-September, 1955-58

Type	1955	1956	1957	1958
	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>
Beef and veal:				
Fresh, chilled or frozen bone				
in beef	5,201	3,261	10,367	42,985
Fresh, chilled or frozen veal .	274	186	612	8,264
Canned beef	68,000	54,506	68,281	78,609
Pickled and cured beef	3,176	6,138	7,324	4,477
Boneless beef	13,373	16,288	51,434	211,522
Total beef and veal	90,024	80,379	138,018	345,857
Pork:				
Fresh, chilled or frozen	33,760	26,851	13,987	32,837
Hams, shoulders and bacon ^{1/}	80,244	76,004	72,981	83,524
Other, pickled or salted	9,951	8,964	9,066	13,774
Sausage, except fresh	354	479	547	777
Total pork	124,309	112,298	96,581	130,912
Lamb, Mutton and goat:				
Fresh, chilled and frozen lamb .	1,044	734	1,244	5,541
Fresh, chilled and frozen				
mutton and goat	804	431	717	13,082
Total lamb, mutton & goat . .	1,848	1,165	1,961	18,623
Other:				
Canned, prepared or preserved				
meats	4,444	3,633	8,862	^{2/} 98,253
Grand total	220,625	197,475	245,425	593,645

^{1/} Includes canned hams and shoulders. ^{2/} Mostly cured and salted boneless beef from Argentina which is considered to be "prepared or preserved" for tariff purposes.

IMPORT CONTROLS RELAXED IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

A general relaxation of import controls on goods from the dollar area was put in effect by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago on January 1, 1959. The relaxation includes a wide range of items: Almost all industrial and agricultural machinery, virtually all office equipment, certain basic foodstuffs (for example, wheat flour, tea, and spices), and many raw materials for industry.

DANISH CANNED MEAT EXPORTS TO U. S. MAY DECLINE

The Danish Government is considering the gradual reduction in 1959 of its premium dollar import system.

Danish canned meat exporters fear that such a move would hurt their competitive position in the U. S. market. Under the present system, exporters obtain a premium of 6 percent of the value of their exports if paid for in dollars. Canned ham exporters claim that their gross profit on exports to dollar areas now corresponds roughly to the 6-percent premium. They say that removal of the premium would force them to cut exports to the United States and other dollar markets.

WEST GERMANY USING LESS TALLOW

U. S. tallow shipments to West Germany continue to decline. Exports of 36.6 million pounds during January-September 1958 were down 61 percent from comparable 1957 exports of 94.6 million pounds. The United States now supplies half of West Germany's tallow imports.

The West German import market for inedible tallow is not greatly affected by domestic production. The decrease in U. S. shipments was mainly in low-grade tallows and greases, largely because of increased use of synthetic detergents, and the use of fatty vegetable oil acids in soap making.

TALLOW, INEDIBLE: West German imports from United States 1955-57 and January-September 1957 and 1958

	Total	From U. S.	Percentage
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	of total
			Percent
1955.....	163.4	127.6	78.1
1956.....	172.6	147.3	85.3
1957.....	144.4	109.6	75.9
1957 (Jan. - Sept.).....	119.3	94.6	79.3
1958 (Jan. - Sept.).....	73.0	36.6	50.3

Source: West German Federal Office of Statistics.

U. K. LIFTS RESTRICTIONS ON BUTTER IMPORTS

On December 23, 1958, the British Board of Trade lifted most of the restrictions that were placed on butter imports from certain European countries last May to prevent "dumping." These restrictions were introduced primarily to protect New Zealand producers.

Butter imports from Sweden, Finland, and Belgium are now under open general license, and it is reported that discussions will soon be held with Polish representatives to arrange for imports from Poland.

The easing of import restrictions was prompted by continuous improvement since June 1958 in the price of butter on the London market. At the end of December, the price of New Zealand butter c.i.f. London had risen to 36-3/4 cents per pound, a 40-percent increase from the low point of 25-3/4 cents per pound in the spring of 1958.

NEW ZEALAND WOOL MARKET BOLSTERED BY U. S. BUYING

New Zealand wool prices in general eased slightly at the closing 1958 Timaru sale on December 19. Strong-to-coarse crossbreds continued firm, however. U. S. interests dominated the market for these types, while the Continent was the principal buyer of finer types.

Compared with the season's opening auction in October, crossbred prices were generally higher, with the coarser types showing larger gains than the finer types. The United States buys mainly the coarser types, used in making floor coverings and paper makers' felts.

This season's auction prices for selected types and selected dates are compared below.

Description	Type	Dunedin Oct. 24	Napier Nov. 21	Timaru Dec. 19
		U. S. cents per pound		
Crossbred fleece:				
Extra fine.....	93B : 50/56's	49.0	47.3	46.7
Fine.....	100B : 50's	43.8	45.2	44.3
Medium.....	114B : 46/50's	41.7	43.2	42.6
Strong.....	128B : 46/48's	41.1	43.5	44.1

Source: New Zealand Wool Commission.

U. S. EXPORTS OF POULTRY MEAT CONTINUE TO GAIN

U. S. exports of fresh or frozen chickens during January-November 1958 totaled 32 million pounds, a gain of 25 percent over shipments in the comparable 11-month period of 1957.

Switzerland continued to be the major market for U. S. chicken, importing 9.9 million pounds during the 11-month period, 80 percent more than in comparable 1957. Other major outlets for U. S. poultry meat were Canada and West Germany.

For the first time, the United States exported a sizable quantity of turkey to West Germany. During the 3-month period September - November, turkey exports to West Germany totaled 1.7 million pounds.

U. S. shell egg exports through November were down 26 percent from last year. Exports to Venezuela, the principal export market for U. S. eggs, amounted to 14.5 million dozen--a decline of 31 percent from 1957.

POULTRY AND EGGS: U. S. exports, by type, January-November 1957 and 1958

Commodity	Unit	January - November		1958 change from 1957
		1957	1958	
		Thousand	Thousand	Percent
Baby chicks.....	head	15,047	13,044	-13
Chickens:				
Broilers and fryers.....	pounds	1/	20,032	---
Roasters and stewers.....	"	1/	12,143	---
Total.....	"	25,645	32,175	+25
Other poultry and game:				
Turkeys.....	pounds	1/	4,655	---
Other.....	"	1/	5,731	---
Total.....		10,670	10,386	-3
Eggs in the shell:				
Hatching.....	dozen	1/	5,936	---
Other.....	"	1/	16,236	---
Total.....	"	29,812	22,172	-26

1/ Breakdown not available.

U. S. MOHAIR EXPORTS
AT NEW HIGH IN 1958

U. S. shipments of mohair and other wool-like specialty hair in January-November 1958 totaled 12.1 million pounds, clean basis, compared with 9.6 million pounds in the same period of 1957. This surpasses the record 11.8 million pounds shipped in 1956.

Exports have risen sharply in recent months following a decline which began in the second half of 1957 and carried through the first half of 1958. Prices have also risen in response to the pickup in foreign demand.

ARGENTINA'S 1958-59
FLAXSEED CROP DOWN

Argentina's 1958-59 flaxseed harvest is placed at 24 million bushels, according to the first official estimate. This is 3 percent less than the 1957-58 crop of 24.8 million bushels but about one-third more than 1950-54 average annual output.

The decline from 1957-58 is due to a 7-percent reduction in planted acreage and to prolonged drought in the northern part of the flaxseed zone.

EL SALVADOR'S RICE CROP
BELOW REQUIREMENTS

El Salvador will be short about 10 million pounds of rice in 1959 unless rice is imported. A rice crop about 23 percent below the level of recent years has been reported.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S
1958 WHEAT CROP SMALLER

The wheat harvest recently completed in the Union of South Africa is somewhat smaller than that of the past 3 seasons. The crop is tentatively estimated at 23.5 million bushels, compared with 29 million a year ago. It is slightly above the 1950-54 average of 23.0 million bushels.

If the current crop is as small as now estimated, it will fall far short of the country's annual consumption of some 32 million bushels. Wheat consumption is showing a rapid increase because of some shift from corn to wheat products.

Severe aphid damage was reported in the winter wheat crop in the northern and eastern Orange Free State. The plague is now reported to have spread to some of the wheat-producing areas of the Transvaal.

ALBANIA'S SUGAR OUTPUT REPORTED

Albania produces about 10,000 to 12,000 short tons of beet sugar annually, according to the Zeitschrift fur die Zuckerindustrie (Berlin).

The only sugar-processing factory in the country is the Malik factory, which serves an area of about 14,000 acres around Koritza near the Greek border. The factory was began by Italian industrialists in 1939, and was completed after the war. It has an annual capacity of 15,000 tons.

RICE CROP PROSPECTS IMPROVE
IN NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

Territory Rice Limited--at Humpty Doo near Darwin, Northern Australia--planted 5,000 acres in rice in November 1958, and ample rains about December 1 resulted in good germination of all the plantings. The company constructed dams and spillways and completed hydrological work in the area in 1958 in order to plant the acreage in rice.

Complete reorganization of Territory Rice Limited (see Foreign Crops and Markets, May 28, 1956) was approved by U. S. and Australian stockholders in January 1958. The company now seems to be going ahead with its plans to expand Northern Territory rice acreage on a sound basis. Heretofore, nearly all of the country's rice has been grown in the southeast.

Per-acre yields of a small crop in 1958 (planted in 1957) were reduced because it was necessary to use brackish water from the Adelaide River late in the growing season. However, plans to use only stored fresh water in the future are expected to bring higher yields.

The wild geese problem, serious in 1956, is said to have been solved by flooding the swamps in breeding areas near Humpty Doo. The geese then moved to other breeding places outside the new rice area.

U. S. RICE EXPORTS
DOWN IN NOVEMBER

U. S. rice exports in November (including Section 416 donations under Public Law 480) were 718,000 bags in terms of milled rice, the smallest in 6 months. Exports in November of the year before amounted to 1,144,000 bags. Nearly half was shipped to Cuba, and 15 percent went to Ceylon. Exports of rough rice to Canada, at 103,000 bags (67,000 bags milled), increased sharply.

Rice exports of 4,739,000 bags during the first 4 months (August-November) of the current marketing year were 514,000 bags more than in the same months of 1957. The principal increases were to Europe, especially West Germany, the United Kingdom, and Belgium-Luxembourg.

RICE: United States exports, in terms of milled to specified countries,
November 1958, with comparisons 1/

Country of destination	August-July		August-November		November 2/	
	1956-57	1957-58	1957	1958 2/	1957	1958
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bags	bags	bags	bags	bags	bags
Western Hemisphere:						
Canada	376:	293:	107 :	152 :	41:	88
British Honduras	33:	24:	0 :	1 :	0:	0
British West Indies	137:	103:	6 :	7 :	1:	5
Cuba	4,054:	4,246:	1,671 :	1,600 :	680:	317
Guatemala	29:	68:	23 :	3 :	6:	3
Haiti	58:	14:	3/ :	4 :	3/ :	3/
Netherlands Antilles	42:	54:	16 :	19 :	5:	5
Nicaragua	3:	5:	0 :	44 :	0:	11
Bolivia	176:	44:	0 :	0 :	0:	0
Peru	3/ :	980:	3/ :	2 :	3/ :	3/
Venezuela	40:	2:	2 :	2 :	0:	2
Other countries	71:	62:	16 :	16 :	7:	3
Total	5,019:	5,895:	1,841 :	1,850 :	740:	434
Europe:						
Belgium-Luxembourg	686:	76:	44 :	77 :	4:	11
West Germany	20:	30:	0 :	271 :	0:	7
Greece	13:	23:	3 :	20 :	0:	9
Netherlands	50:	14:	3 :	54 :	2:	7
Sweden	16:	12:	6 :	24 :	2:	2
Switzerland	58:	32:	14 :	15 :	3:	0
United Kingdom	0:	34:	3/ :	113 :	3/ :	9
Other countries	27:	6:	0 :	10 :	2:	2
Total	870:	227:	70 :	584 :	13:	47
Asia:						
Ceylon	0:	331:	0 :	550 :	0:	105
India	4,376:	0:	0 :	0 :	0:	0
Indonesia	5,424:	753:	0 :	89 :	0:	0
Japan	109:	5:	2 :	11 :	3/ :	1
Korea, Republic of	2,746:	242:	242 :	0 :	121:	0
Pakistan	4,372:	3,453:	1,295 :	0 :	0:	0
Philippine Republic	20:	554:	0 :	1,140 :	0:	34
Saudi Arabia	98:	151:	71 :	29 :	41:	4
Other Arabian States	22:	107:	97 :	56 :	10:	21
Turkey	218:	0:	0 :	0 :	0:	0
Other countries	18:	28:	2 :	4 :	0:	0
Total	17,403:	5,624:	1,709 :	1,879 :	172:	165
Total Oceania	47:	52:	20 :	22 :	6:	7
French Somaliland	0:	6:	0 :	41 :	0:	16
Liberia	248:	270:	124 :	115 :	42:	14
Other Africa	19:	17:	7 :	14 :	6:	8
Destination not specified	13:	17:	7 :	8 :	1:	2
Total exports (Census)	23,619:	12,108:	3,778 :	4,513 :	980:	693
Ryukyu Islands 4/	207:	145:	0 :	0 :	0:	0
Section 416 donations	2,036:	683:	447 :	226 :	164:	25
Ground rough rice for animal feed 5/	288:	0:	0 :	0 :	0:	0
World total	26,150:	12,936:	4,225 :	4,739 :	1,144:	718

1/ Includes brown, broken, screenings and brewers' rice and rough rice converted to terms of milled at 65 percent. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Less than 500 bags. 4/ Programed by ICA and shipped by the Army. 5/ Sold by Commodity Credit Corporation.

Source: Bureau of the Census and Department of Agriculture.

COLOMBIAN GROUP PLANS TO EXPAND BARLEY PRODUCTION

A newly formed Colombian association of breweries is launching a program to expand national barley production. Plans call for about 25,000 acres of additional land to be brought under cultivation for barley. They also include the use of approved seed, increased fertilization and technical supervision.

Machinery worth \$1,200,000, including 145 tractors and 20 combines, has been bought for use in the program. The machinery will be centered at 10 stations to be set up in the barley-growing areas, each station in charge of an agronomist who will assist local farmers with other crops as well as barley.

The association hopes to expand barley production to 165,000 tons by 1961. This would be double current production and enough for domestic needs. The increase in barley acreage is not expected to affect production of wheat and potatoes, the other principal crops in these areas.

A new malt plant is now being built near Zipaquira.

C O R R E C T I O N

In the item "Yugoslavia's 1959 Winter Grain Gets Good Start," Foreign Crops and Markets, December 22, 1958, page 12, paragraph 3, line 3 should read "2 to 3 inches high."

HONG KONG'S RICE IMPORTS INCREASE

Hong Kong's rice imports from January through September 1958, at 574 million pounds, were moderately above the 565 million pounds taken in the same period of 1957. A marked decline in imports from Thailand was more than offset by larger amounts from Cambodia and Communist China.

Quantities imported, by countries of origin, with imports for the same period of 1957 shown in parentheses, are as follows (1,000 pounds): Cambodia, 112,036 (70,129); Communist China, 158,795 (110,186); North Vietnam, 26,817 (21,755); South Vietnam, 5,531 (1,660); Thailand, 269,644 (357,279); and other countries, 1,407 (3,519).

However, net imports into Hong Kong from January through September were only 513 million pounds, 42 million pounds less than in the same period of 1957. Rice exports amounted to 60,618,000 pounds, compared with only 11,382,000 pounds in the corresponding months of 1957.

About 44 million pounds exported in the January-September 1958 period were classified as rice, white, broken (edible) shipped to Indonesia at an average of \$5.53 per 100 pounds, f.o.b. Other significant amounts were 6.7 million pounds shipped to Malaya, and 4.5 million pounds to British Borneo.

RICE: Hong Kong imports, by country of origin, quantity and price per 100 pounds, c.i.f., January-September 1958, with comparisons

Country of origin	September		January-September			
	1957	1958	1957	1958		
	Cost	Cost	Quantity	Cost	Quantity	Cost
	: Dollars:	: Dollars:	: 1,000	: Dollars:	: 1,000	: Dollars
	per	per	pounds	per	pounds	per
	100 lb.	100 lb.		100 lb.		100 lb.
Rice, white, including polished:						
Cambodia	4.42	--	46,877	5.01	90,464	5.23
Communist China	6.16	5.78	109,282	5.91	158,795	6.08
North Vietnam	5.61	--	6,416	5.46	1,283	5.41
South Vietnam	--	--	448	4.66	5,531	5.93
Thailand	7.34	7.12	149,917	6.47	74,466	6.89
Other countries	--	--	2,423	--	1,404	--
Total	6.74	5.98	315,363	6.03	331,945	6.02
Rice, white, broken (edible):						
Burma	--	--	1,096	3.77	0	--
Cambodia	4.04	--	6,325	4.12	6,268	4.32
Communist China	--	--	904	4.63	0	--
North Vietnam	3.80	--	14,649	3.77	9,785	4.12
Thailand	4.89	5.35	184,740	4.63	184,708	5.13
Total	4.73	5.35	207,714	4.55	200,761	5.06
Rice, cargo (brown):						
Cambodia	2.52	4.07	16,927	3.23	15,192	3.63
North Vietnam	--	4.21	0	--	13,138	3.92
South Vietnam	--	--	1,212	4.12	0	--
Thailand	--	--	440	5.10	0	--
Total	2.52	4.12	18,580	3.30	28,331	3.76
Rice, glutinous:						
Cambodia	--	3.28	0	--	112	3.28
North Vietnam	--	4.97	690	6.79	2,611	5.09
Thailand	4.44	5.41	22,181	4.40	10,470	4.19
Total	4.44	4.99	22,871	4.47	13,193	4.36

Source: Hong Kong Trade Statistics.

JAPAN PLANS REDUCTION IN WHEAT AND BARLEY SUPPORT PRICES

A reduction in Japan's support prices for wheat and barley appears likely if recent recommendations to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry are implemented. The government's purchase price for the 1958 crop is 2,196 yen per 60 kilos (\$2.17 per bushel) for wheat; 1,771 yen per 52.5 kilos (\$2.04 per bushel) for common barley; and 2,292 yen per 60 kilos (\$2.89 per bushel) for naked barley.

In September 1958 the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry set up a wheat and barley Study Council to recommend changes in existing government policies and pricing practices for indigenous wheat and barley. While the complete text of the council's recommendations is not yet available, it includes the following:

(1) that the basis (parity index number) for calculating the government purchase price be revised in order to make possible a reduction of 10 to 15 percent in the price; (2) that the difference between the present purchase price and the recommended lower purchase price be given to farmers and agricultural cooperatives as an indemnity; and (3) that imported wheat and barley be sold to flour millers and barley cleaners c.i.f. ports of arrival -- they now must pay certain freight charges not actually related to transport costs from ports to mills; and (4) that the new measures be put into effect during the Japanese fiscal year beginning April 1, 1960.

The principal reason for trying to find new and better procedures for buying indigenous wheat and barley is that the government's Special Food Control Account has been showing a deficit since 1956. The government has been paying farmers higher prices for wheat and barley than its selling prices. The Special Food Control Account is expected to show a deficit of as much as 9 billion yen (\$25,000,000) during the current Japanese fiscal year.

It is recognized that the proposals of the Study Council might not result in balancing the Food Control Account if an indemnity is paid to producers. However, the council recommended that such indemnities be gradually reduced in order to eliminate marginal producers so that farmers on the remaining planted area would be encouraged to increase average yields. Another objective is elimination of profiteering by resale. Under the present system there is no practical way to prevent traders from buying wheat and barley from the government and later reselling the same grain to the government at a profit.

If the government adopts the Study Council's recommendations, it will have to amend the Food Management Law. Under this law the government is required to establish its annual purchase prices for wheat and barley by multiplying the average prices paid to farmers in 1950 and 1951 by the agricultural index numbers for the current year. The Japanese Diet is expected to object strongly to any change in this law.

DROUGHT THREATENS PERU'S 1959 FOOD SUPPLY

Some drought and freeze damage to crops was reported over much of southern and central Peru in late 1958, but it was too early to appraise the full extent of the crop reduction. The amount of rain received from January to March will be an important factor in final crop outturn.

The rainy season started in September, the usual time, and rainfall was generally normal until early November. During late November and most of December, however, there was no rain in most parts, and the drought became serious. Corn in the Sierra region is said to have suffered the most actual damage.

NEW ZEALAND RELAXES IMPORT LICENSING OF CERTAIN SEEDS

Under New Zealand's import licensing procedure for 1959 (see Foreign Crops and Markets, November 3 and 10, 1958), the following seed items, regardless of source, will be subject to licensing quotas as indicated:

Seeds, flower	50 percent of total 1957 imports					
Seeds, vegetable	100	"	"	"	"	"
Seeds, agricultural:						
Paspalum; alsike clover; lotus						
major; subterranean clover;						
tree; beet (fodder and sugar						
type) mangel; and mustard	100	"	"	"	"	"

As previously announced, applications for 1959 licenses must be made no later than January 31, 1959.

WEST GERMANY ANNOUNCES IMPORT TENDERS FOR CERTAIN MEALS AND OIL RESIDUES

On December 16, 1958, West Germany published import tenders for:

(1) Oilseed residues from the dollar area, value limit DM 10 million (U.S. \$2.4 million); (2) fishmeal from the United States and Canada, value limit DM 1 million (U.S. \$240,000); (3) bloodmeal for feed from the United States and Canada, value limit DM 1 million (U.S. \$240,000); and (4) meatmeal for feed from the United States and Canada, value limit DM 1 million (U.S. \$240,000).

Applications for import licenses under each tender may be submitted to the Foreign Trade Agency. The beginning date for submission was January 2, 1959. Applications will be considered until the value limit has been reached, but not later than June 30, 1959. On request, import licenses will be issued with a period of validity for customs clearance up to 12 months.

PARTIAL CONVERTIBILITY OF EUROPEAN CURRENCIES WILL STIMULATE TRADE

The action of 10 Western European countries ^{1/} in making their currencies externally convertible, effective December 29, 1958, will have important effects on the development of U. S. agricultural trade.

The major change is that each country now allows "non-residents"--such as foreign individuals, firms or governments--to freely convert their earnings of that country's currency into any other currency. For example, an Italian in London may convert his pound sterling earnings into lire, dollars, or any other currency. And a Dutch exporter of flower bulbs can take his earnings of Norwegian or Swedish kroner and convert them through his bank into pounds sterling to pay for an automobile bought in Britain.

In practice, some European currencies were convertible before December 29, mostly through central bank levels and at discounts below official exchange rates.

The new convertibility does not apply to citizens of the country concerned. Pounds are not convertible for Englishmen or marks for Germans. The limitations apply equally, of course, to other residents of the same currency area (e.g., sterling area). The restrictions also apply to some countries which have bilateral trade and payments agreements with the 10 Western European countries. Nor has convertibility been extended to movements of foreign investment capital. Exchange controls which in part dictate method and currency of payments and receipts will be maintained for the present.

Full formal convertibility, which would allow residents of any country to obtain any foreign money they want, is still a goal.

Europe's convertibility move means an end to the European Payments Union (EPU). The EPU was a clearing house arrangement used by the Organization for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC) countries to facilitate payments among themselves. Foreseeing such a move, these countries pledged in 1955 to settle their payments accounts through a new organization called the European Monetary Agreement (EMA).

Unlike the EPU, the EMA will not automatically extend credit to countries that run a deficit in their intra-European trade. Under the EPU, deficits were settled by paying 75 percent in gold or dollars and 25 percent through credit granted by the EPU. In the EMA, deficits must be settled in full, and "interim credits" will be granted only when members formally request such assistance. Without the cushion of automatic credits, member countries will have to keep intra-European payments in better balance than they were under the EPU.

^{1/} The United Kingdom, France, West Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Italy, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. Austria and Portugal have indicated they may also grant convertibility, but at a later date.

These countries will also have to control domestic inflationary pressures. If inflation prices their exports out of the market, their gold and foreign exchange reserves may rapidly decline. The success of internal financial and monetary control measures in meeting such situations was recently demonstrated by the remarkable financial recovery of the United Kingdom, Belgium, and the Netherlands in late 1957 and in 1958.

The ability of convertibility to function smoothly is enhanced by the substantial nature of the gold and short-term dollar assets of these countries. On September 30, 1958, they totaled \$15.1 billion, or 47 percent of total foreign holdings. Moreover, exports of the 10 countries in 1957 amounted to \$36.3 billion, or more than one-third of total Free World trade. Since 1950--the year following the general devaluation of foreign currencies, and the year that the EPU started--exports of these 10 countries have more than doubled.

External convertibility by this major group of trading countries represents another important step toward freeing trade and payments. It may be expected to:

- (1) Facilitate further expansion of world trade--an expansion necessary to the further economic growth of the Free World.
- (2) Increase competition in international markets as a result of expanded trade and production.
- (3) Facilitate and encourage foreign private investments reflecting business expansion and more liberal policies on profit remittance.
- (4) Tend to widen the scope of available convertible foreign exchange. Heretofore, payments deficits were largely settled in gold and dollars, and for this reason a number of countries treated dollars as "scarce" in administering import controls. Now, however, earnings of the 10 Western European currencies are synonymous with the dollar and there is no longer any reason for separate allocations.
- (5) Lead the way toward non-discriminatory, multilateral trade. Since the financial motivation for discrimination by the 10 countries against trade with the dollar area has been removed, it should follow that in due course greater opportunities will be offered U. S. farm products to compete freely in world markets.

COLOMBIA TO PROMOTE BARTER TRANSACTIONS

The President of Colombia recently announced the appointment of a new board to work out barter and other economic policies. One of the most important functions of the board will be to develop new markets for coffee, and facilitate the importation of commodities which have required licenses or been prohibited.

The new board will replace the Economic Advisory Group, which has been considering barter offers by various countries. These offers include exchanges of coffee for products from Indochina, for automobile spare parts from Czechoslovakia and for U. S. "jeeps" from a third country.

The Economic Advisory Board reports much interest by European countries in possible barter agreements involving the exchange of coffee for various products produced in these countries. Specific proposals have been presented by Japan, Mainland China, Hungary, France, Italy, Great Britain, Belgium and certain other countries. The new board hopes that there can be a wide-scale program of exchanging coffee for other commodities to expand the coffee market and improve Colombia's balance-of-payments.

PANAMA ESTABLISHES 1958-59 COFFEE CROP PRICE

A support price of \$52 per 100 pounds was established in Boquete, Panama, on December 9, 1958, for 1st grade washed highland coffee of the 1958-59 crop that is consumed domestically. Washed highland coffee will be sold to roasters in Panama City at \$54 per 100 pounds. If the coffee is not consumed in Panama but is sold abroad, the government will pay the coffee producer the price received in the world market less handling and shipping costs.

The maximum selling price for 1958-59 coffee from the Central Provinces and similar lowland coffees was established on December 11, 1958, at \$38 per 100 pounds in the zone of production and \$40 per 100 pounds in the cities of Panama and Colon. These coffees are consumed largely on the farm or in local markets.

Boquete and other washed highland coffee make up about one-third of Panama's crop. The 1958-59 support price for these coffees is the same as for the 1957-58 crop if the coffee is consumed locally. This year's exclusion of exports from coverage by the support price is the result of the substantial losses suffered in the sale of the 1957-58 crop on the world market and the present level of coffee futures.

U. S. COTTON EXPORTS
UP IN NOVEMBER

U. S. exports of cotton (all types) were 314,000 running bales in November 1958. This was a considerable increase from October exports of 181,000 bales, but well below exports of 526,000 bales in November 1957. Most of the November exports went to Spain, Japan, the Republic of Korea, France, the United Kingdom, and Italy.

Exports during August-November 1958 totaled 916,000 running bales, compared with 1,724,000 bales in the corresponding 1957 period. Comparable figures in 500-pound gross weight bales and destinations of the August-November exports will be published in Foreign Crops and Markets next week.

EL SALVADOR'S COTTON
PRODUCTION INCREASES

The 1958-59 cotton crop in El Salvador is expected to reach a record level of 235,000 bales (500 pounds gross). This is an increase of 46 percent from the 161,000 bales produced in 1957-58, and 72 percent higher than the 137,000-bale crop grown in 1956-57. Cotton production in El Salvador has expanded steadily in recent years, increasing by an average of 33 percent each year since 1950-51.

This season's record crop is attributed to a 31-percent increase in the area planted to cotton--from 99,000 acres in 1957-58 to 130,000 acres this year, favorable weather, and more effective cultural practices.

El Salvador's 1957-58 cotton exports are estimated at 130,000 bales, up 35 percent from the 96,000 bales exported in 1956-57. Principal destinations of the 1957-58 exports were Japan, West Germany, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands.

Preliminary estimates place exports for the first 4 months of 1958-59 (August-November) at 45,000 bales, compared with exports of 43,000 bales in the same months of 1957-58. Sales of 1958-59 crop cotton up to mid-December were running nearly 15 percent below a year earlier despite the fact that the price for Middling grade cotton f.o.b. Salvadoran ports was about 6 cents a pound lower than a year earlier. Declining cotton prices may bring about some reduction in acreage in 1959-60.

Cotton consumption in 1958-59 will probably be below the 14,000 bales used last year. The new textile mill at San Salvador is said to be operating below full capacity due to financial and other difficulties.

End-of-season cotton stocks on July 31, 1958, were estimated at 95,000 bales, up 46 percent from a year earlier. In view of the larger crop this year, stocks are expected to be even larger by July 31, 1959.

SYRIA'S 1958-59 COTTON CROP
MAY SET NEW RECORD

Preliminary estimates place the 1958-59 cotton crop in Syria at 525,000 bales (500 pounds gross). If these estimates materialize, this crop will be 7 percent above the 1957-58 crop of 492,000 bales, and will set a new production record for the fifth successive year.

Cotton acreage in 1958-59 is estimated at 645,000 acres--a slight increase from the 638,000 acres planted in 1957-58, but about 4 percent below the 1956-57 area of 673,000 acres. Water supplies have been adequate and weather has been generally favorable for the current crop.

Most of the cotton grown in Syria is American upland type. In 1958, "purity" fields were established with a view to propagating certified planting seed locally, thus limiting imports from the United States to registered seed only.

Syrian cotton exports of an estimated 418,000 bales in 1957-58 were up 12 percent from exports of 374,000 bales in 1956-57, and were the highest on record. Statistics for 10 months (August-May) of 1957-58 show exports of 410,000 bales, against 356,000 bales in the same months of 1956-57. Exports increased to all major buyers of Syrian cotton except Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and Italy. Sharpest increases occurred in exports to the U.S.S.R. and Communist China. France continued to be the largest single buyer, with Communist China and the U.S.S.R. second and third.

Syrian exports continued to shift toward Communist country destinations in 1957-58. During August-May 208,000 bales, or 51 percent of Syria's total exports, moved to Communist countries, compared with 132,000 bales, or 37 percent of the total in the corresponding months of 1956-57.

Quantities exported to principal destinations during August-March 1957-58, with comparable 1956-57 figures in parentheses, were: France 100,000 bales (92,000); Communist China 82,000 (49,000); U.S.S.R. 73,000 (16,000); West Germany 32,000 (10,000); Czechoslovakia 25,000 (48,000); Japan 21,000 (6,000); Hungary 11,000 (0); Bulgaria 10,000 (17,000); Italy 10,000 (30,000); United Kingdom 8,000 (3,000); Rumania 4,000 (2,000); East Germany 3,000 (0); Greece 2,000 (1,000); and Switzerland 1,000 (317). Transshipments through Lebanon were 28,000 bales, compared with 47,000 bales in 1956-57.

Syrian cotton consumption in 1957-58 was estimated at a record 51,000 bales, up 16 percent from the 44,000 bales used in 1956-57. Stocks on July 31, 1958, were estimated at 37,000 bales, against 14,000 bales a year earlier.

Prices of Syrian cotton on world markets have declined 6 to 8 cents a pound since January 1958. Most of the decline has occurred since June. On January 8, 1959, Syrian SM 1-1/32" cotton was quoted at 26.88 cents a pound c.i.f. Liverpool, and 27.85 cents a pound c.i.f. Bremen.

HIGHER PRICES FOR 1958 YUGOSLAV PRUNE PACK

The 1958 Yugoslav prune harvest consisted entirely of small fruit. However, because of lower world production, it sold at prices generally higher than the same sizes brought in 1957.

Prices paid by the Soviet Union were 20 to 25 percent higher. Sales prices to other countries, particularly France, were also higher. In general, Eastern European countries paid an average of 10 to 15 percent more than Western Europe, owing to the relative desirability of the foreign currencies involved.

There was an extreme difference in size between 1958 Yugoslav prunes and dried prunes from California. Export prices for Yugoslav dried prunes, f.o.b. Yugoslav border or port, as of early December, were:

Destination	Size 95-100 half-kilo	"Uzans" 110-120 half-kilo	"Merkantil" over 120 half-kilo	Pitted prunes
	Cents per lb.	Cents per lb.	Cents per lb.	Cents per lb.
Denmark.....	15.4	12.7	9.1	19.1
France.....	15.6	13.8	---	---
Germany, West.....	15.4	12.7	9.1	19.0
Italy.....	16.3	13.1	10.2	19.6
Other countries.....	15.4	12.7	9.1	19.1

Exports of Yugoslav 1958-crop prunes are now forecast at 21,500 short tons, or about 14 percent above the 18,800 tons exported from the 1957 pack. By mid-December, most 1958 prunes had been sold, with heavy buying by the Soviet Union and Soviet-Bloc countries.

PRUNES, DRIED: Yugoslav exports by destination, 1957-58 and forecast 1958-59

Country of destination	1957-58 Short tons	Forecast 1958-59 Short tons
Austria.....	891	0
Czechoslovakia.....	2,820	1,100
France.....	1,598	2,300
Germany, East.....	531	400
Germany, West.....	996	5,500
Italy.....	1,809	1/
Poland.....	613	700
U.S.S.R.....	8,804	8,800
Other countries.....	738	2,700
Total.....	18,800	21,500

1/ Included in "other countries."

TRANSSHIPMENTS OF MEXICAN COTTON UP IN SEPTEMBER

Transshipments of Mexican cotton through U. S. ports in September 1958 were 84,000 bales (500 pounds gross). This was an increase of 4 percent from August transshipments of 81,000 bales, and 20 percent above the movement of 70,000 bales in September 1957. Transshipments during August-September 1958 were 165,000 bales, compared with 134,000 bales a year earlier.

Principal destinations of the August-September transshipments, with comparable 1957 figures in parentheses, were: West Germany 48,000 bales (27,000); Italy 29,000 (9,000); the United Kingdom 27,000 (27,000); Belgium 15,000 (25,000); Switzerland 10,000 (8,000); and Spain 10,000 (0).

DRY WEATHER IN NEW ZEALAND

Dry conditions continue in much of New Zealand, particularly in the northern parts of South Island.

Pastures have been short in many areas. Conditions in the Atwatere district of Marlborough are considered the worst in 20 years. Cattle numbers have been reduced much below normal in certain areas, and lamb slaughtering began earlier due to lack of pastures and feed.

The main wheat crop, however, is not expected to be much affected. It is grown largely in the Canterbury plains on the eastern coast of South Island.

PHILIPPINE 1958 EXPORTS OF COPRA AND COCONUT OIL OFF ONE-FIFTH FROM 1957

Philippine exports of copra and coconut oil in 1958 totaled 553,406 long tons, oil basis, a decline of over one-fifth from those of 1957. Copra exports were down one-fourth, while coconut oil shipments fell nearly 40 percent.

November copra exports are revised as follows: Denmark--2,250 tons; Netherlands/Germany optional discharge--5,200 tons.

Desiccated coconut shipments in 1958 totaled 54,073 short tons, slightly below the 58,961 tons exported in 1957. The United States took nearly 95 percent of the 1958 shipments.

The Philippine copra export price in mid-January was about \$240.00 to \$242.50 per short ton c.i.f. Pacific Coast (mid-December-\$225.00 to \$235.00; mid-November-\$227.50). Local buying prices were reported at 50 to 51 pesos per 100 kilograms (\$254.01 to \$259.09 per long ton) resecada Manila and 41 to 49 pesos per 100 kilograms (\$208.29 to \$248.93) in producing areas.

COPRA: Philippine Republic, exports by country of destination,
December and January-December 1957 and 1958

Country of destination	1957 ^{1/}		1958 ^{1/}	
	December	January-December	December	January-December
	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons
North America:				
United States.....	28,179	290,314	23,143	264,831
Atlantic Coast.....	(28,179)	(266,352)	(---)	(264,831)
Pacific Coast.....	(---)	(23,962)	(23,143)	(---)
Canada.....	1,750	10,117	---	1,800
Panama.....	---	---	---	2,662
Total.....	29,929	300,431	23,143	269,293
South America:				
Chile.....	---	---	---	200
Colombia.....	4,381	64,522	2,000	36,953
Venezuela.....	3,000	36,127	1,467	19,628
Total.....	7,381	100,649	3,467	56,781
Europe:				
Belgium.....	500	8,500	500	10,000
Denmark.....	500	31,625	3,250	19,800
France.....	---	2,500	1,250	12,810
Germany, West.....	4,700	58,884	2,000	54,465
Italy.....	1,000	20,337	1,000	13,860
Netherlands.....	33,323	353,405	16,963	208,628
Norway.....	1,000	20,851	---	10,000
Spain.....	---	---	---	100
Sweden.....	2,000	36,500	500	26,065
Optional discharge ^{2/}	1,000	32,000	^{3/} 500	46,602
Total.....	44,023	564,602	25,963	402,330
Asia:				
Israel.....	---	8,000	---	3,020
Japan.....	---	6,784	---	500
Lebanon.....	---	7,900	---	4,200
Total.....	---	22,684	---	7,720
Grand total.....	81,333	988,366	52,573	736,124

^{1/} Preliminary. ^{2/} West Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Italy, or Sweden. ^{3/} Unspecified.

Source: Philippine trade sources.

COCONUT OIL: Philippine Republic, exports by country of destination,
December and January-December 1957 and 1958

Country of destination	1957 ^{1/}		1958 ^{1/}	
	December	January-December	December	January-December
	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons
North America:				
United States.....	7,416	81,085	4,832	84,484
Atlantic Coast.....	(7,416)	(78,257)	(4,832)	(80,239)
Pacific Coast.....	(---)	(1,652)	(---)	(4,245)
Gulf Coast.....	(---)	(1,176)	(---)	(---)
Cuba.....	350	1,395	---	350
Total.....	7,766	82,480	4,832	84,834
Europe:				
Germany, West.....	---	1,540	---	---
Netherlands.....	---	8,126	---	4,814
Optional discharge ^{2/}	---	850	---	---
Total.....	---	10,516	---	4,814
Grand total.....	7,766	92,996	4,832	89,648

^{1/} Preliminary. ^{2/} West Germany or Netherlands.

Source: Philippine trade sources.

Official Business

FRENCH LIBERALIZATION OF DOLLAR IMPORTS

Two lists of commodities which can be imported from the United States and Canada without quantitative restrictions were published by the French Government in December. They became effective January 1, 1959.

The second (and more important) of these lists was published December 31 as part of France's more comprehensive move towards economic stabilization and currency convertibility (see Foreign Crops and Markets, January 5, and p. 20 of this issue.) The commodities now liberalized accounted for slightly over half of France's imports from the United States and Canada in 1953.

Raw cotton is by far the most important agricultural item liberalized. Cotton accounted for 8 percent of total U. S. exports to France and 55 percent of U. S. agricultural exports to France in 1957. Other liberalized agricultural items include cotton linters and cotton waste; hides and skins; forage seeds, including alfalfa; seed beans and peas; seed potatoes; raw wool; and purebred cattle, hogs, sheep, and goats.

France has liberalized a much longer list of imports from OEEC countries. The commodities liberalized are said to represent about 90 percent of France's imports from the OEEC area, using 1948 trade as a basis. This rate of liberalization is somewhat higher than the one in effect before June 1957, when currency problems led France to reimpose quantitative restrictions on all imports.